



New Endowment Honors Peter Thompson's 24 Years of Service to Healthy Aging in Charlottesville

For Immediate Release

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (September 6, 2023) — The Center at Belvedere's Board of Directors has announced plans to create the Peter M. Thompson Endowment for Capital Renewal and Professional Development in honor of Thompson's 24 years of service to healthy aging in Charlottesville.

Thompson, who has held the Executive Director position at The Center — formerly known as the Senior Center — since 1999, announced his retirement earlier this year. The search for a new Executive Director is currently underway.

"When Peter announced his retirement, we wanted to celebrate his leadership and achievements," Center Board President Christine Thalwitz said. "Peter's vision and enthusiasm inspired our community to support the construction of The Center at Belvedere. And Peter's dedication to the professional development of The Center's team helped to support the organization's core value of promoting excellence."

The capital renewal portion of the endowment will allow for the repair or replacement of items that extend the life of The Center at Belvedere's award-winning facilities. The cost to support regular renewal of the building's roof, carpet, IT systems, and HVAC will remain low for the first 15–20 years of use and increase as the building ages.

The Center's Board of Directors anticipates requiring significant financial resources to meet these capital renewal needs in the latter half of the building's life. Creating a fund that supports the renewal of the building and its systems, rather than simply recurring maintenance, ensures that The Center can continue to meet the needs of our growing community.

The endowment also supports professional development, an oft overlooked need of nonprofit organizations. Supporting team members with professional development opportunities has a highly positive impact on The Center's delivery of effective and innovative healthy aging programming. Team members who take advantage of such opportunities are better equipped to advance The Center's mission in a variety of ways and are more likely to stay with the organization for a longer time.

The Board has set a goal to raise \$100,000 by November 30, 2023. Additionally, The Center intends to continue to raise funds beyond this initial goal, so that over time, funds from the Thompson Endowment can support the people who manage The Center's healthy aging programs and the replacement of The Center at Belvedere's structure and systems, helping to extend the life of this important community resource.

"Making a gift to the Thompson Endowment is a great way to thank Peter for dramatically expanding opportunities for area seniors to live their best lives and support The Center's long-term health," Board Vice President Jennifer King said.